

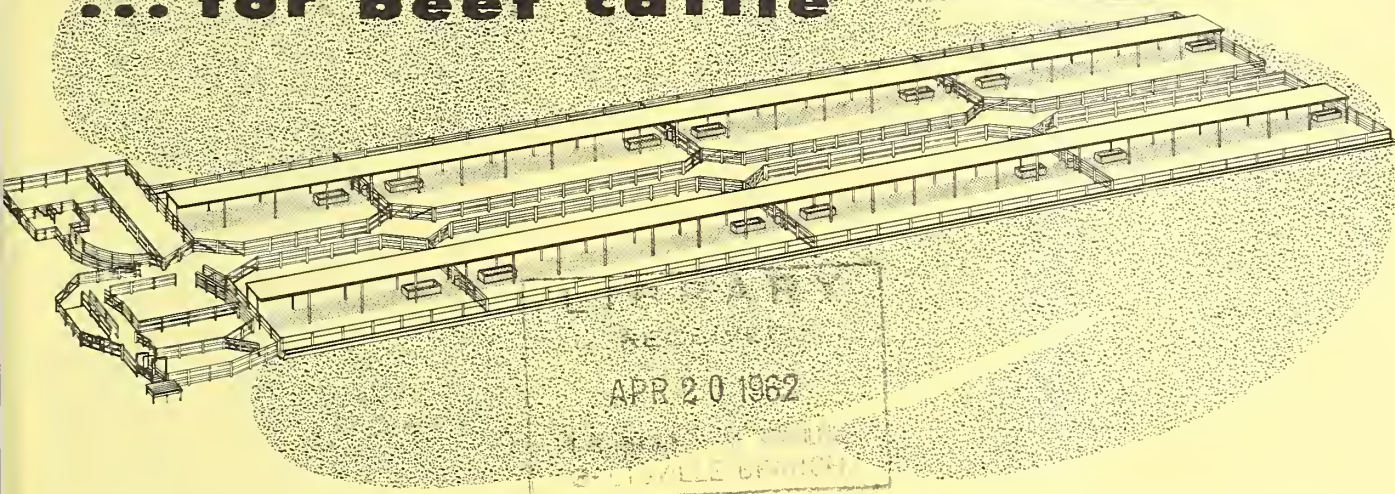
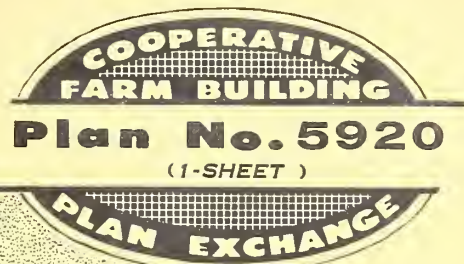
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CORRAL and FEED LOTS

... for beef cattle



Feed lot designs for beef cattle differ according to climate. In the Southwest, the layout illustrated with the feed bunks running in an east-west direction is excellent. However, in northern locations the feed bunks should run north-south, and windbreak fences are needed on the cold exposures. In areas of high rainfall, the cattle should be sheltered, and the feed lots may have to be paved. Where rainfall is moderate, gravel-surfaced lots are often bulldozed into a mound so the cattle will have a dry place to lie down.

A concrete apron extending 5 feet from the feed bunk is desirable in moderate rainfall areas. The concrete platform around the watering trough should extend 5 to 10 feet from the trough. A step-up 4 inches high for the animals' front feet encourages them to move away from the water after they have finished drinking. In any location, careful regard must be given to the drainage. Lot surface slopes of 2 feet in 100 feet are ideal.

In areas where summer heat is a problem, shades are essential, and the fences should be as open as possible to permit free movement of air. Cables strung on steel pipe posts make ideal open-type fences for hot areas. Springs may be installed in the cables to maintain them at proper tension. In other areas plank or pole fences

are popular. Feedlot fences should be at least 5 feet high, and corral fences 6 feet high.

The corral layout shown provides a flexible and efficient system for handling animals. Since the corral fences must be built of fairly solid material, and the animals are crowded when in the corral, it is always best to work with the animals only during cool periods of early morning and late evening, or on cool days.

At least 100 animals should be on feed if the investment in a self-unloading wagon and the necessary cattle working equipment is to be profitable.

HOW TO ORDER

A large-scale working drawing may be obtained through your county agent or from the Extension agricultural engineer at most State agricultural colleges. There is usually a small charge.

ORDER PLAN NO. 5920 CORRAL AND FEED LOTS FOR BEEF CATTLE

If the large-scale drawing is not available in your State, write to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering Research Division, Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Maryland. The U.S. Department of Agriculture does not distribute drawings, but will direct you to a State that does distribute them.

Developed by:
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY RESEARCH DIVISIONS

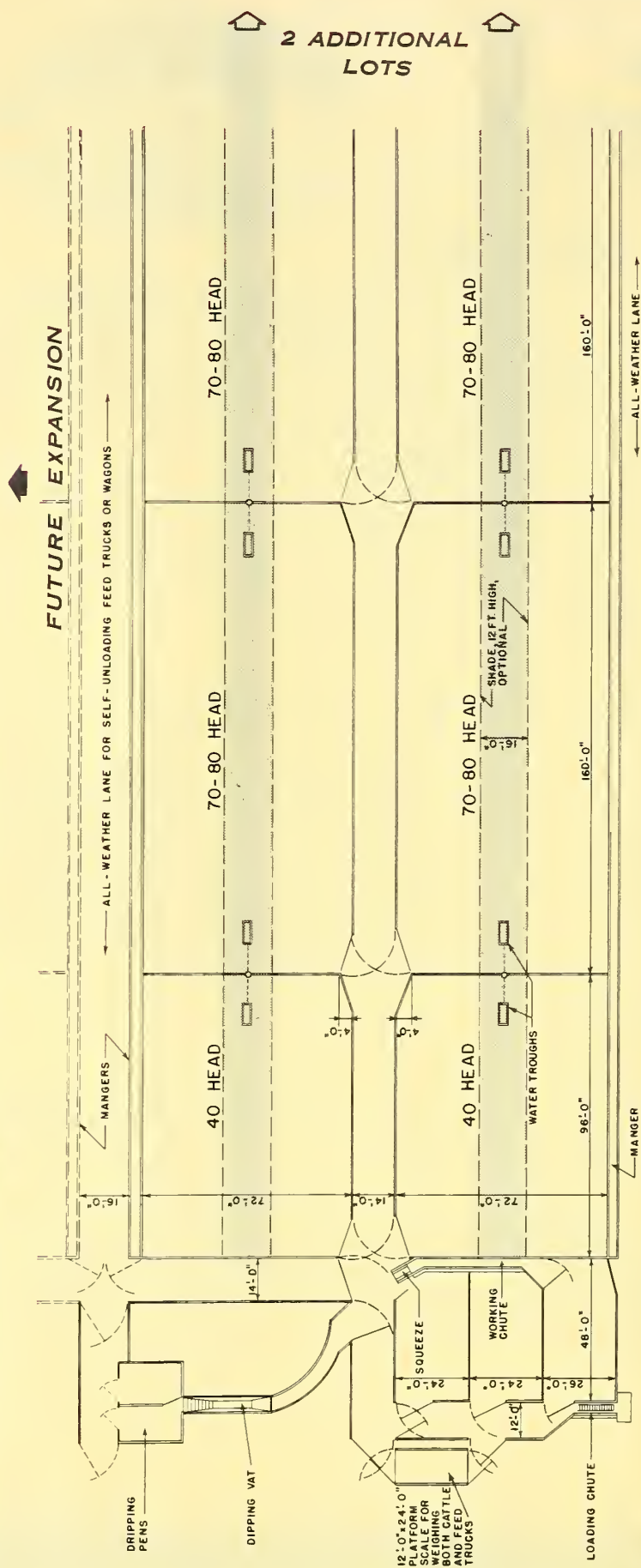
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plan and special features



Shades at least 12 feet high and the open fences keep the cattle cool and more productive in hot climates.



The feed bunks are built entirely outside of the feed lot fence to facilitate the use of self-unloading vehicles.

